



– For Immediate Release –

Monday June 16, 2008

IIMPACT detectives investigate 40 drop houses in the Phoenix-area since December

The discovery of two drop houses last week brings the total to 40

The investigation of two drop houses by IIMPACT detectives on June 12th and June 13th brings the total number of drop houses investigated by IIMPACT to **40**. In fact, since IIMPACT began active operations in December 2007, a total of **99** human smugglers have been arrested with **97** felony charges filed. In addition, **\$17,113** has been confiscated and **489** UDA's have been turned over to ICE.

The mission of IIMPACT Arizona! is to deter, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations profiting from illegal immigration.

DPS Sgt. Chuck Herrera, an IIMPACT Detective, will be available for interviews today, June 16, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at IIMPACT Headquarters located at 2222 W. Encanto Blvd. Phoenix, Az.

IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) was formed almost a year ago. It is a multi-agency project managed by GIITEM of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) that is designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. IIMPACT is comprised of personnel from DPS, Phoenix Police, ICE and the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force (AFIT). As the name implies, local, state and federal police agencies combine forces to impact international human smuggling organizations operating in Arizona.

The Arizona corridor is one of the busiest and most violent smuggling corridors in the country. The criminal organizations involved in the smuggling of aliens will violate any law and have total disregard for human life. The violent, collateral crimes related to the smuggling infrastructure include kidnapping, assault, rape, murder, home invasions, hijacking and vehicle collisions while attempting to evade the police.

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